

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4130

To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense to accept the donation of frequent traveler miles, credits, and tickets for the purpose of facilitating the travel of members of the Armed Forces who are deployed away from their permanent duty station and are granted, during such deployment, rest and recuperative leave and certain other forms of leave and the travel of family members to be reunited with such a member, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 2, 2004

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER (for himself, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. HUNTER, and Mr. SKELTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Defense to accept the donation of frequent traveler miles, credits, and tickets for the purpose of facilitating the travel of members of the Armed Forces who are deployed away from their permanent duty station and are granted, during such deployment, rest and recuperative leave and certain other forms of leave and the travel of family members to be reunited with such a member, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Operation Hero Miles
3 Act of 2004”.

4 **SEC. 2. ACCEPTANCE OF FREQUENT TRAVELER MILES,**
5 **CREDITS, AND TICKETS TO FACILITATE THE**
6 **AIR OR SURFACE TRAVEL OF CERTAIN MEM-**
7 **BERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THEIR**
8 **FAMILIES.**

9 Section 2608 of title 10, United States Code, is
10 amended—

11 (1) by redesignating subsections (g) through (k)
12 as subsections (h) through (l), respectively; and

13 (2) by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-
14 lowing new subsection:

15 “(g) OPERATION HERO MILES.—(1) The Secretary
16 of Defense may use the authority of subsection (a) to ac-
17 cept the donation of frequent traveler miles, credits, and
18 tickets for air or surface transportation issued by any air
19 carrier or surface carrier that serves the public and that
20 consents to such donation, and under such terms and con-
21 ditions as the air or surface carrier may specify. The Sec-
22 retary shall designate a single office in the Department
23 of Defense to carry out this subsection, including the es-
24 tablishment of such rules and procedures as may be nec-
25 essary to facilitate the acceptance of such frequent trav-
26 eler miles, credits, and tickets.

1 “(2) Frequent traveler miles, credits, and tickets ac-
2 cepted under this subsection shall be used only in accord-
3 ance with the rules established by the air carrier or surface
4 carrier that is source of the miles, credits, or tickets and
5 shall be used only for the purpose of—

6 “(A) facilitating the travel of a member of the
7 armed forces who—

8 “(i) is deployed on active duty away from
9 the permanent duty station of the member; and

10 “(ii) is granted, during such deployment,
11 rest and recuperative leave, emergency leave,
12 convalescent leave, or another form of leave au-
13 thorized for the member; or

14 “(B) facilitating the travel of family members
15 of the member to be reunited with the member.

16 “(3) The Secretary of Defense may enter into an
17 agreement with a nonprofit organization to use the serv-
18 ices of the organization—

19 “(A) to promote the donation of frequent trav-
20 eler miles, credits, and tickets under paragraph (1),
21 except that amounts appropriated to the Depart-
22 ment of Defense may not be expended for this pur-
23 pose; and

1 “(B) to assist in administering the collection,
2 distribution, and use of donated frequent traveler
3 miles, credits, and tickets.

4 “(4) Members of the armed forces and family mem-
5 bers who receive air or surface transportation using fre-
6 quent traveler miles, credits, or tickets donated under this
7 subsection are deemed to recognize no income from such
8 use. Donors of frequent traveler miles, credits, or tickets
9 under this subsection are deemed to obtain no tax benefit
10 from such donation.

11 “(5) In this subsection, the term ‘family member’ has
12 the meaning given that term in section 411h(b)(1) of title
13 37.”.

14 **SEC. 3. REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAVEL COSTS INCURRED**
15 **BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES UNDER**
16 **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REST AND RECUP-**
17 **ERATION LEAVE PROGRAM.**

18 The Secretary of Defense shall reimburse each mem-
19 ber of the Armed Forces who participated in the Depart-
20 ment of Defense Rest and Recuperation Leave program
21 during the period beginning on September 15, 2003, and
22 ending on December 18, 2003, for travel expenses in-
23 curred by the member, or by family members on behalf
24 of the member, to travel to or from a designated embar-

- 1 kation point for the program before the program was ex-
- 2 panded to include a domestic travel component.

